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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/764)]

45/179. Enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the dramatic increase in drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which is threatening the health and well-being of millions of people in the majority of countries in the world,

Commending the determined efforts of Governments in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and recognizing the importance of support for such efforts by the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the significant work carried out within the United Nations system in the field of drug abuse control and the valuable knowledge, expertise and experience represented there,

Recognizing that the new dimensions taken on by the drug menace necessitates a more comprehensive and integrated approach to international drug control and a more efficient structure to ensure co-ordination, complementarity and non-duplication of activities across the United Nations system in order to use available resources in the most efficient way to enable the United Nations to play a central and greatly enhanced role in this field,

Recalling the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, as adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and

Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 1987, 1/ and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session on 23 February 1990, 2/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 3/

Noting with appreciation the work carried out, pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 44/141 of 15 December 1989, by the Group of Experts to advise and assist the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control, 4/

Recalling the need to ensure, in respect of recruitment to posts that are financed from the regular budget, the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and paying due regard to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking has to be dealt with within the broader economic and social contexts,

Underlining the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues and the independent role of the International Narcotics Control Board,

Underlining also the importance of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, 5/ and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, 6/ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 7/ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, 8/

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General 3/ and the report of the Group of Experts, entitled "Drugs and the United Nations: meeting the challenge"; 4/

1/ See Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ See resolution S-17/2, annex.

3/ A/45/652.

4/ See A/45/652/Add.1, annex.

5/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.

6/ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

7/ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

8/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

2. Welcomes the proposal of the Secretary-General to unify the United Nations structure for drug abuse control to enable the United Nations to strengthen its role as the main focus for concerted international action for drug abuse control;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to create a single drug control programme, to be called the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, based at Vienna, and to integrate fully therein the structures and the functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control with the objective of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control in keeping with the functions and mandates of the United Nations in this field;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in order to appoint a senior official at the level of Under-Secretary-General, who will execute the integration process and head the new integrated Programme starting from 1 January 1991 with the exclusive responsibility for co-ordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities, in order to ensure coherence of actions within the Programme as well as co-ordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities across the United Nations system;

5. Also invites the Secretary-General to structure the United Nations International Drug Control Programme along the following lines:

(a) Treaty implementation, which would integrate, with due consideration to treaty arrangements, the functions of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the treaty implementation functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, taking into account the independent role of the Board;

(b) Policy implementation and research, with responsibility for implementing policy decisions of the relevant legislative bodies and conducting analytical work;

(c) Operational activities, with responsibility for co-ordinating and carrying out the technical co-operation projects currently being executed mainly by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board;

6. Endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General to place the financial resources of the existing United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control under the direct responsibility of the head of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a fund for financing operational activities, mainly in developing countries;

7. Requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-fourth regular session, to consider ways and means of improving its functioning as a policy-making body and to submit its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit his report and that of the Group of Experts to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fourth regular session so that they can be taken into account when the Commission discusses ways and means of improving its functioning;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council, as a matter of urgency at its first regular session of 1991, giving due consideration to the recommendations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to undertake a review of the functioning of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and decide on the appropriate changes needed to improve it;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to review the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, as revised, 9/ including all mandates and recommendations established by the Global Programme of Action, in the light of structural changes decided on in the present resolution;

11. Underlines that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme should give priority to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, as well as the mandates and recommendations in the Global Programme of Action;

12. Requests that the appropriation within the regular budget of the United Nations currently allocated to the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Division of Narcotic Drugs be reallocated to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and invites the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and other resources are allocated to the Programme to enable it to discharge its functions effectively;

13. Decides that the operational programme and related support costs currently financed from voluntary contributions shall, upon the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, continue to be borne from voluntary contributions;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the measures taken to implement the present resolution.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990

9/ E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.